

Headington Committee for Development Action (HCDA)

Minutes for meeting on 27th September 2006, 19h00, Headington Hill Hall

Present

Heather Armitage
Sue Baker
James Bloice-Smith
Jill Cummings
Marion Fiddes
Janet Isaac
Stephanie Jenkins
Tony Joyce
David Rundle
Stella Welford

Apologies from

Angela Cristofoli
Mary Hope
Audrey Mullender

Sue Baker and Lesley Williams, as stakeholders for the Headington Partnership of Schools, gave a presentation on the Partnership and Extended Services.

Sue said that the Heads of the local schools within the Partnership meet every two months with an LEA adviser. One concern is transport and parking in Headington as well as safety for those going to school on foot. Agreement has been reached so that St. Andrews parents may park in the Somerfields car park at the beginning and end of every day free of charge thanks to the intervention of Stephen Tall. In response to a question about whether there was plenty of spare capacity in Headington schools, Sue said that all schools in the area (including Wood Farm) are very full, and that if people move to the area in mid-year they may be obliged to send their child to a school outside the area.

Lesley is Coordinator for Extended Services and explained that funding is £17,000 a year to pay a Coordinator and for photocopying. The substance of Lesley's presentation is contained in the papers she circulated which are being sent to those unable to be at the meeting. Lesley said she found the Headington website and the OX3 Guide very valuable. James said he had become aware that a lack of funding could affect progress. David suggested Lesley should come to NEAC meetings with a request for funding through an Open Session and request Extended Services be an item on the agenda. James said that Extended Services will become a significant factor in community life in the coming years and will, therefore, relate to the work of our committee.

1. Minutes of last meeting held on 26.07.06.

Minutes approved and signed by James who took the Chair in Mary's absence.

James welcomed Heather Armitage as representative of the Headington & District Allotment Association.

2. Notification of any other business

Janet, Jill and Heather tabled topics for discussion

3. Matters arising from previous minutes (28th June)

3.1 Storybook tree - Mary had suggested a plastic plaque be used again go give time for further sponsors to be found prior to commissioning the permanent plaque.

3.4 Car free day – 22nd September - Tony reported there was a lot of activity in Broad Street, and the events in Headington had been very successful with streets closed and activities within those areas. He said it would be easy to establish home zone areas. David suggested planning should start early in 2007 and it should be considered as a type of festival with community groups working together in view of the traffic problems.

5 Constitution - Tony reported that he, Angela and Mary had met to discuss amendments in connection with full and associate members. There are no problems with this and it is ready for ratification at the AGM. Tony will check it with David. The AGM will be held on 25th October. David suggested Mary should write to the local County Councillors to ask if one of them will come to our meetings.

7 CPZ - James asked if more work should be done on his draft letter. Tony agreed as we should get ahead of the game. David said he would be happy to meet James to discuss it further.

8 Headington Funday, 2nd September - This has been a great success with ca 500 present. Thanks were expressed to Michael Williams of the City Council. Jill mentioned lack of publicity in spite of leafleting. David suggested a calendar of events for the website and the noticeboards.

8 Camera at the Headington traffic lights - David suggested raising this at an Area Committee meeting to make sure it is considered which Jill will do.

4. Treasurer's update

Charles was away and James reported in his absence that there was no change from the information given at the last meeting.

5. Warneford Meadow

Tony reported there are a vast number of objections. Highfield and Hill Top Road associations are mostly affected and are actively dealing with the interests of residents. There are now two more large applications for student accommodation for Brookes which raises the question of brown field and green field site usage: ideally the applications should be considered in relation to one another taking advice from an experienced planning consultant. Heather suggested the orchard might be preserved as a community orchard and that allotments should be included in the Warneford development for residents with small or no gardens. Tony will suggest this to the Highfield Residents and follow up on behalf of HCDA and CCOHRA. David mentioned the issue of ownership, possibly by the community and not the city council. Developers' interpretation of 'undeveloped' land needs to be investigated.

6. Headington Development

Mary had asked for this item to be included and had mentioned the TA site now up for sale, and Dorset House due for possible demolition, and asked whether we want to form a sub group to discuss future development in the area. David said that some parish councils have produced blue prints and HCDA could usefully produce a 'local plan' with shops we would want, issue of planning in the future and what Headington should look like. It was agreed Mary should elaborate on what she has in mind. James proposed that she should be empowered to call together a small group and come to the next meeting with suggestions. Tony suggested rolling the local plan along and we should be pro-active. He also commented on the Brookes application for Dorset House and the lack of consultation between the developer and the city. He felt the accommodation planned would not be beneficial for students as they were trying to get too many students on to the site.

7. Any Other Business

Christmas lights - Jill said the Christmas lights will be the responsibility of the NEAC in future.

Noticeboards - Janet said Angela had done a draft for 'display guidelines'.

Verges along Old Road - Heather has obtained agreement that the verges will be repaired.

OX3 Guide - James asked for suggestions for further distribution of the Guide. Heather suggested the city's tourist office.

9. Date of next meeting and the AGM

Wednesday 25th October 2006 at 7.00, Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane